

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 9 and 10 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tone generator system ~~which generates at least one musical tone in response to sounding instruction data relating to a channel by using a program number based on tone color changing instruction data designating a tone color of the channel which is stored in predetermined timing before the sounding instruction data, the tone color changing instruction data including a channel number indicative of the channel and the program number, and the sounding instruction data including the channel number, comprising:~~

a first waveform storage that stores compressed waveform data, ~~each of the stored compressed waveform data being readable based on the program number, the compressed waveform data being compressed in a compression method for compressing waveform data in units of a frame comprised of a plurality of samples encoded with a format such as one of~~ MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 (MP3), MPEG-2, Advanced Audio Coding (AAC), ~~[[and]] or~~ Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding (ATRAC);

a second waveform storage;

a sequencer that sequentially receives and interprets a series of messages included in a musical composition file, ~~supplies the tone color changing instruction data obtained by interpreting the series of messages, and then supplies the sounding instruction data obtained by interpreting the series of messages;~~

a decoder, ~~responsive to the tone color changing instruction data supplied from said sequencer, for reading that, when said sequencer interprets a program change message into tone color changing instruction data including a channel number indicative~~

of a channel and a program number indicative of a tone color, reads out from said first waveform storage the compressed waveform data based on the program number included in the supplied tone color changing instruction data, ~~for decoding~~ decodes the readout compressed waveform data into waveform data in a pulse code modulation format, and ~~for storing~~ stores the decoded waveform data in the pulse code modulation format into said second waveform storage, ~~each of the stored decoded waveform data being readable based on the channel number~~; and

a tone generator section that ~~is responsive to the sounding instruction data supplied from said sequencer, for reading~~ when said sequencer interprets a note-on message following the program change message into sounding instruction data including the channel number, reads out from said second waveform storage the waveform data in the pulse code modulation format, ~~based on the channel number included in the supplied sounding instruction data~~, and ~~for generating~~ generates musical tones based on the readout waveform data in the pulse code modulation format, wherein

said decoder starts to at least read out the compressed waveform data before said tone generator section starts to generate the musical tones so as to prevent a delay in generating the musical tones.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A tone generator system according to claim 1, wherein said second waveform storage is operable for storing waveform data inputted by a user.
4. (Previously Presented) A tone generator system according to claim 1, wherein said decoder is operable for decoding compressed audio stream data inputted from an external device.

5. (Currently Amended) A tone generating method ~~which generates at least one musical tone in response to sounding instruction data relating to a channel by using a program number based on tone color changing instruction data designating a tone color of the channel which is stored in predetermined timing before the sounding instruction data, the tone color changing instruction data including a channel number indicative of the channel and the program number, and the sounding instruction data including the channel number, comprising:~~

sequentially receiving and interpreting a series of messages included in a musical composition file;

~~supplying the tone color changing instruction data obtained by interpreting the series of messages, and then supplying the sounding instruction data obtained by interpreting the series of messages;~~

reading out from a first waveform storage compressed waveform data based on ~~[[the]]~~ a program number included in the supplied tone color changing instruction data, decoding the readout compressed waveform data into waveform data in a pulse code modulation format, and storing the decoded waveform data in the pulse code modulation format into a second waveform storage, when a program change message is interpreted into the tone color changing instruction data including a channel number indicative of a channel and the program number indicative of a tone color in response to the supplied tone color changing instruction data, each of the compressed waveform data stored in the first waveform storage being readable based on the program number, the compressed waveform data being compressed in a compression method for compressing waveform data in units of a frame comprised of a plurality of samples encoded with one of a format

~~such as~~ MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 (MP3), MPEG-2, Advanced Audio Coding (AAC),
[[and]] or Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding (ATRAC), ~~and each of the decoded
waveform data stored in the second waveform storage being readable based on the
channel number;~~

and

reading out from the second waveform storage the waveform data in the pulse
code modulation format, ~~based on the channel number included in the supplied sounding
instruction data,~~ and generating musical tones based on the readout waveform data in the
pulse code modulation format, when a note-on message following the program change
message is interpreted into sounding instruction data including the channel number in
response to the supplied sounding instruction data ,wherein

at least reading out the compressed waveform data starts before the generation of
the musical tones is started so as to prevent a delay in generating the musical tones.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium having encoded thereon
storage medium storing~~ a program for executing a tone generating method which
~~generates at least one musical tone in response to sounding instruction data relating to a
channel by using a program number based on tone color changing instruction data
designating a tone color of the channel which is stored in predetermined timing before the
sounding instruction data, the tone color changing instruction data including a channel
number indicative of the channel and the program number, and the sounding instruction
data including the channel number,~~ the program comprising:

a sequencer module for sequentially receiving and interpreting a series of
messages included in a musical composition file, ~~supplying the tone color changing~~

~~instruction obtained by interpreting the series of messages, and then supplying the sounding instruction data obtained by interpreting the series of messages;~~

a decoding module for reading out from a first waveform storage compressed waveform data based on ~~[[the]]~~ a program number included in the supplied tone color changing instruction data, [[and]] decoding the readout compressed waveform data into waveform data in a pulse code modulation format, and storing the decoded waveform data in the pulse code modulation format into a second waveform storage, when a program change message is interpreted into the tone color changing instruction data including a channel number indicative of a channel and the program number indicative of a tone color ~~in response to the supplied tone color changing instruction data,~~ the compressed waveform data being compressed in a compression method for compressing waveform data in units of a frame comprised of a plurality of samples encoded with one of a format such as MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 (MP3), MPEG-2, Advanced Audio Coding (AAC), ~~[[and]]~~ or Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding (ATRAC), ~~each of the compressed waveform data stored in the first waveform storage being readable based on the program number, and each of the decoded waveform data stored in the second waveform storage being readable based on the channel number;~~ and

a tone generator module for reading out from the second waveform storage the waveform data in the pulse code modulation format, ~~based on the channel number included in the supplied sounding instruction data,~~ and generating musical tones ~~[[data]]~~ based on the readout waveform data in the pulse code modulation format, when a note-on message following the program change message is interpreted into sounding instruction data including the channel number ~~in response to the sounding instruction data supplied~~

~~from said sequencer module , wherein~~

at least reading out the compressed waveform data starts before the generation of the musical tones is started so as to prevent a delay in generating the musical tones.

7. (Previously Presented) The tone generating method according to claim 5, further comprising storing waveform data inputted by a user in the second waveform storage.

8. (Previously Presented) A tone generating method according to claim 5, wherein the compressed waveform data is compressed audio stream data inputted from an external device.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a~~
computer storage medium storing a program according to claim 6, wherein the second waveform storage stores waveform data inputted by a user.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a~~
computer storage medium storing a program according to claim 6, wherein the decoding module is operable for decoding compressed audio stream data inputted from an external device.

11. Canceled

12. Canceled

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